UNITED
NATIONS

Convention to Combat
Desertification

SUMMARIES OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRY PARTIES

CAPE VERDE

The archipelago of Cape Verde is of volcanic origin, made of nine small inhabited islands, implanted on the SW corner of the Senegalese sea platform, 450 km off the west coast of Africa. The islands do not house any significant mineral resources and have a relatively reduced arable land but a huge EEZ.

They are located on the latitudinal boundaries of the great deserts of the world and in the Atlantic projection of the Sudan-Sahelian Africa. Such a fact greatly explains its semi-arid to arid climate, slightly moderated by the ocean. The islands are cyclically devastated by prolonged and severe drought spells with disastrous consequences for certain ecological systems, the main cause of famine and deaths in the recent past as well as of an important migratory movement.

In essence: (i) the steppes and the herbaceous are to be found on the slopes of mountains, above 1,500 metres; (ii) the Guinean altitude mesophile forest house the humid and sub-humid areas; (iii) the semi-arid elevated plains are located in deep and imbedded valleys; and (iv) low altitude ecosystems are dominated by steppes and the semi-desert ranges that exhibit a considerable diversification of habitats and landscapes such as dunes, terraced hill plains. However, the coastal and marine ecosystems of the archipelago have not been conveniently studied yet.

These ecosystems have reached an advanced stage of degradation as a result of the expansion of agriculture into marginal land and the consequent overexploitation of species; urbanization (as yet over human settlements have concentrate in the coastal regions), and its high rate of unemployment and widespread poverty (namely among the young and women who happen to be the key elements as concerns the supply of firewood and drinking water). In some instances, the natural regeneration capacity of the land has been exhausted, loss of soil layers and fertility as well as biological diversity are exacerbated by prolonged drought spells and rare but markedly torrential rainfall.

In addition to tree planting, rural engineering works, electrification, widespread dissemination and use of butane, etc., public awareness campaigns to address environmental protection needs (including the issue of forest fires) and studies bearing environment-related issues, and other activities in specific domains are being carried out as a means of barring the degradation process and loss of resources.

Strategies and priorities

The country's environmental policies and strategies advocate that sustainable development should be institutionalized and remain participative and supported by the international cooperation. Thus little wonder sustainability is safeguarded in all the major pieces of environment-based legislation and surfaces in the statutes of every department with a role to play in the domain of natural resources conservation and is crystal clear in several development plans.

The National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) - the framework plan - contains the country's environmental strategies. The aims are to ensure an adequate management of natural resources (a national council on the environment will be instituted). As of late, the Government stepped forth with the creation of a

The Four (4) National Development Plans (NDP)

NPAP's

The Tropical Forestry Action Plan's

Environment Outline Law. Land Management and Urban Planning Outline Law

Convention) or are in the making such as the **Forestry Code** and **Soil and Water Conservation Code**.

Institutional and organizational measures

The configuration of the Administration has changed several times over the years, according to priorities, prevailing circumstances and policies (e.g. decentralization, environmental protection, etc.). Although the most recent one (1996) has provided for a more coherent administrative framework with respect to environmental issues, the existing central governmental organizational structure is still heavy and not very functional for that fact.

Seven (7) ministries bear, to some degree or another, a mandate over these environmental issues falling within their field of expertise. Meanwhile, it is up to the **Ministry of Agriculture** to plan, coordinate, control, monitor, execute and evaluate natural resources and environmental policies.

With so many relevant parties involved, the issue of increased coordination responsibilities emerges. Within the structure of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Executive Secretariat for the Environment (SEPA) is the unit charged with such responsibilities. Likewise, an **Agriculture, Food and Environmental Council** was also created within said structure (level) to counsel on these subjects. However, it is expected that private participation will be ensured as stipulated in the statutes.

The specialized **Cabinet** charged with **environmental** matters is the great executive and policy-making body. Its members include seven ministers.

The **National Water Council** - CNAH - is the management body responsible for hydric resources, presided by the MA and made of representatives of three other ministries.

At the local level, Law No. 2/93/M/A of 15 July 1993 entrusts the municipality with the role of promoting, within its frontier, the formulation of action plans and programmes tailored to protect nature and its resources.

The establishment of specialized local bodies to deal with the issue is also foreseen in said law. To the exception of the municipality of Praia, no specialized municipal bodies have been established or are in the process of being established.

Environment-and-development organizations (NGOs and associations) have been created and are present in significant number in almost every community. Their work is narrowly focused and they tend to be very efficient.

Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Sea, Tourism and Transports; Ministry of Infrastructure and Housing; Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy; Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Education; and Ministry of Health.

Decree-Law No. 73/97, 29 December.

Conventions

Participation in the formulation and execution of the Action Plan

Municipal boards specialized in environmental issues

The consultative approach (partnership agreements included)

to establish and maintain the most useful links and assure the best coordination ties between the relevant parties, through binding partnership agreements.

The first such development efforts were unleashed in the beginning of 1997. At such time the municipalities were approached with a specific framework document on the subject. Awareness-building campaigns at the level of donors reckon with the active participation of France. The outcome of such activities was the signing of a protocol agreement followed by the formulation of a reference project capable of allowing for the integration of donors' support.

Meanwhile, such process has not done very far with respect to the municipalities: it is wise to proceed with and further take advantage of local initiatives in the fields of sister-cities agreements signed with foreign municipalities that might become very important instruments with respect to the implementation of the action programme in specific areas such as drinking water supply, electrification, etc.

Furthermore, desertification control cannot be successful unless it is founded on a renewed partnership that grants a key role to the rural peoples. Although no partnership agreement is to be signed at this level, it is of merit to think it over and take into consideration the guidelines set forth by the African Farmers Association Forum held in Dakar as a pre-cop to the second Conference of the Parties.

Specific measures taken or foreseen within the framework of the NAP

The 1996 Programme of the Government confirms the liberalization development policy, promotion of the private sector and withdrawal of the State from economic activities.

The ongoing economic reforms primarily focus on three categories aimed at bringing the development of economic infrastructure projects, economic and financial reforms, public sector reform, promotion of the private sector, education and professional training, poverty alleviation, etc.

The existing economic environment is favourable for the realization of such reforms. The growth rate of GDP is higher than that of the population (3.2 per cent in 1994 and 5.4 per cent in 1995) and foreign direct investment growth trend is significant as from 1994 through 1995. Said investments are mainly structural in nature and show evidence of an considerable pumping and a positive impact on the generation of employment, diversification of economic activities and on the balance of payments.

Furthermore, stability at the macroeconomic environment level is rendered favourable by the permanent dialogue and real reconciliation efforts being employed under the Social Reconciliation Council.

The family-owned production units, when confronted with severe climatic adversities and with profound socio-economic changes (demographic growth,

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Sources: "Mesa Ronde sur le Partenariat au Developpement - 10-11 Juin 1997"; "Conjoncture" December 1996 - Ministry of Finance (Economie nationale, Strategic Club du Sahel, Mars 1998.

Financial resources

of a permanent drought spell) drain an ever increasing lump of financial resources from the annual investment programme.

Investment needs for the first three quinquennial NCP (natural resources and fight against desertification) were: (a) US$ 31 million; (b) US$ 44 million; and (c) US$ 54 million. Such a fact pictures an increased interest with respect to environmental matters. As for the IV NCP (1996-2000) such needs have been assessed at US$ 9.90 million.

Development agencies and/or financial institutions such as UNDP, FAO and the World Bank, as well as several other donor countries (on a bilateral basis) and the European Union, are providing a very important assistance in the execution of natural resources-based conservation projects ratified by the NCP.

Several environment-oriented funds are in the making including the Environment Fund. As concerns desertification, a National Fund to control desertification is awaiting publication in the Official Gazette. The main guideline from such schemes is to institute decentralized financial aid to that are managed through mechanisms that have been approved by all the interested parties.

Indicators

Although progress attained in the field of desertification control and mitigation of the effects of drought have been striking in several sectors, there is still a need to consolidate gains through their institutional setting and to strengthen the coordination of multisectoral activities in order to guarantee their sustainability.

The execution of the United Nations Convention on desertification control is driven by a UNDP/Government project that shares the same physical configuration of CNEA. Said support project is particular and has started a process of which a certain number of institutional adjustments and a new approach to the problem of desertification and sustainable development in general, should be noticeable.

On the other hand, it is striking the lack of perception and sensitivity towards environmental problems on the part of citizens (namely those living in rural areas) the most likely outcome of environmental education activities and the actions of other relevant participants. The long run might be safeguarded this way.

SENEGAL

The adoption by the international community, on 17 June 1994, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCD) marked a breakthrough in giving effect to the commitments made during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992.

Senegal is one of the first countries to have signed and ratified the UNCD, thereby demonstrating the importance attached by the highest authorities to combatting desertification.

A Sahelian country with a semi-arid tropical climate, Senegal has been severely hit since the 1970s by a succession of droughts and by strong pressure on natural resources.

a major contribution from non-governmental actors (nearly 40 per cent);

- Strengthening of environmental education, enabling it to reach 130,000 pupils and become gradually integrated into school curricula;

- Training courses for local officials and collaboration with the regional councils in the context of skills transfers, particularly with the implementation of regional forestry plans;

- Strengthening and development of information, education and awareness-raising activities related to desertification.

At the same time, collaboration with the development partners was reaffirmed in the framework of NAP implementation and this has made it possible to launch some major projects, such as:

- The Senegalese-Mauritanian project on biodiversity conservation in the Senegal valley at a cost of US$ 12 million by the GEF over a period of six years;

- The Diourbel agro-forestry project financed by IFAD at a cost of US$ 12 million over five years;

- The creation of a national forestry seed centre with the support of the Netherlands at an overall cost of nearly 1 billion CFA francs as from January 1999.

LESOTHO

1.0 An introductory section highlights the fact that Lesotho's land terrain is dominated by rugged mountains with only 9 per cent arable land, predominately in the lowlands zone. A brief overview of Lesotho's economic indicators is given, noting that the agricultural sector contributes about 14 per cent of GDP. This is the lowest agricultural productivity in the southern African region. Mention is also made of the principal development objective of the Government as being poverty alleviation. It is also emphasized that the country is threatened by desertification, because of soil erosion and land degradation. Soil is lost through water and wind effects. Loss of organic content and nutrients from the soil due to poor agricultural practices and various forms of biomass removal lead to reduction of soil water-holding capacity and decreased soil depth that hinders proper root development, and general damage to soil structure. Land suitable for cultivation and grazing is becoming more scarce. Lesotho is facing a major crisis of land degradation due to soil erosion.

2.0 Policies, strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans are covered. Among other things, National Development Plans, and the National Plan to Implement Agenda 21 are outlined. The National Environment Policy that provides the national policy to ensure the protection and conservation of the environment with a view to achieving sustainable development for Lesotho; and strategies to combat desertification developed prior to UNCCD are also mentioned. In particular Land Use Policies which aim at achieving land use policy that is suited to the local climatic zone

cooperating partners have been very instrumental: UNDP, IFAD and CCD secretariats provided much needed financial support. UNSO assisted on community of Ha Khoro village pilot project with financial support for land reclamation activities.

6.0 Section 6.0 outlines measures undertaken to combat desertification and technical programmes in this field. Accelerated combatting of soil erosion in Lesotho dates back to the 1930s. Until recently, such efforts mainly emphasized structural works such as terracing, contours, silt traps, diversions, etc. This strategy has been found to merely offer temporary solutions.

Government policy is now shifting towards biological conservation methods with a strong emphasis on community participation. To solicit the latter, the strategy now seeks to marry production with conservation and environmental objectives. Successful agricultural diversification and commercialization require the establishment of effective conservation and environmental protection measures. There is a need to adopt a holistic approach that integrates rural development with conservation and environmental planning, laying emphasis on acceptable and affordable techniques. This section also identifies planned measures within the framework of the NAP. These include the following:

1. To review the legal framework within which conservation activities are implemented;

2. To investigate both physical and social factors that lead to the deterioration of the land base;

3. To intensify efforts in water harvesting by rehabilitating old ponds and dams and by constructing new ones;

4. To adopt a participatory resource management approach that places more emphasis on the farmer and the community as agents of development;

5. To consolidate and rationalize the operations of institutions that deal with issues of environment, conservation and land use; and

6. To strengthen the programme of conservation of endangered indigenous species.

7.0 Section 7.0 briefly identifies the national budget that has a direct bearing on desertification control. The total amount of about M 191 million (US$ 1 = Maloti 6.00) has been identified from the financial records of the Government and these reveal that this amount is the annual contribution by the Lesotho Government together with the donor community.

8.0 Lastly, a review of the benchmarks and indicators required to measure progress and assessment thereof have been identified. In this regard, it has been observed that desertification indicators are measurable and observable parameters that should permit the assessment of an area according to its degree of degradation. They may be either physical or socio-economic characteristics. So far the field level indicators of desertification in Lesotho have been suggested and will be further looked at before they are employed.

TUNISIA

1.1. The concept of sustainable development

1.2 The development strategies

1.3 Measures taken to implement the CCD

1.4 Consultative process and role of women and young people

1.5 Measures taken in the framework of the NAP

1.6 Execution of NAP - costs and financial resources

1.7 Results of cooperation to implement the CCD

1. Cooperation with bilateral partners

2. Cooperation with multilateral partners

3. Cooperation with the private sector

4. Cooperation with civil society

Implementation of the Convention by organizing events to disseminate information concerning it and alert the various actors to their responsibilities. For example, an international workshop on desertification control in the framework of the Convention, entitled "Partners against Desertification", was held at Kairouan from 28 to 30 March 1996 by the Kairouan Association for the Protection of the Environment in collaboration with the European Environmental Bureau and other NGOs. The workshop was held to promote lasting partnerships between NGOs from North and South and between NGOs and institutions. It also resulted in the definition and establishment of a framework for consultation between partners and the definition of possible financing mechanisms for the elaboration, coordination and implementation of National Action Plans.

1.8 The system of indicators for monitoring progress

A series of national-level workshops has been held to define indicators for monitoring progress in implementing the CCD, i.e., indicators of the rate of desertification and indicators of the impact of work to combat desertification. This was done in collaboration with GEF.

In view of desertification control's importance for sustainable development in affected regions, the following are the indicators taken into account in assessing the rate of desertification and the impact of natural-resource protection projects in semi-arid and arid regions:

The human development indicator, comprising the following components:

Life expectancy

Level of knowledge (adult literacy rate and mean number of years of study)

Standard of living as expressed through GDP;

Demographic indicators

Population growth

Population density

Degree of urbanization

Total fertility rate;

Natural resource indicators, comprising the following components:

Percentage of arable land (agricultural area relative to total area)

Useful farm space per capita

Annual rate of deforestation

Annual rate of desertification

Renewable water resources per capita (m³/yr)

Fresh water consumption as percentage of water resources per year

The present document is a summary of the report produced as a result of a long process of consultation with the major stakeholders in the field of desertification control in Burkina Faso. Drafted in pursuance of the relevant articles of the Convention and in accordance with the provisions of decisions 1/COP.1 and 9/COP.2 of the Conference of the Parties, it is designed to inform the Parties to the Convention about the measures taken to implement the CCD in Burkina Faso.

For Burkina Faso, the Convention is both a starting point and an outcome:

- A starting point because it constitutes a new approach to the problem of desertification and its causes;

- An outcome because it was necessary to make enormous efforts to create awareness and undertake concrete actions, first at the national level, to prove that desertification was not inevitable, and then at the international level, to mobilize the international community to achieve the expected results, within the framework of environmental protection and preservation.

These efforts, but also their limits, are set out below.

I. Strategies and priorities formulated in development policies

1.1. Policies and/or strategies

In Burkina Faso, the national strategies for economic and social development were set out in the various five-year Development Plans. These plans became People's Development Programmes (PPD) during the 1980s (the revolutionary period) and were then replaced by the rolling Three-year Programmes (PAP) under the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP).

The various national strategies for economic and social development aimed at:

- Securing food self-sufficiency and security;

- Protecting and safeguarding the environment in terms of the rational and sustainable management of natural resources;

- Increasing incomes.

1.2. The Plans

Four plans were worked out:

- *The National Action Plan to Combat Desertification*, formulated in response to the regional strategy to combat desertification proposed by the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS);

- *The National Action Plan for the Environment (PANE)*: a strategic development plan devised at the urging of the World Bank, it takes

1.3. The programmes

Agricultural development:

Forestry and water sector:

Research:

National components of the CILSS Regional Programmes:

II. Institutional measures for the implementation of the Convention

2.1. Operational National Coordinating Body (NCB)

Legal status:

Resources:

No.	Project title	Starting date	Duration	Cost (dollars)	Sponsors
1	*Project being implemented National Strategy and Plan of Action in the area of biological diversity and country report to the Conference of the Parties	01/1998	1 year	230 977	GEF/UNDP
2	Desertification control measures	1997	5 years	1 372 000	JALDA/JAPAN
3	Sahel Burkinabe Programme	09/1997	2 years	12 000 000	GTZ
4	Project for Support to the Sahel Burkinabe Programme	11/1997	5 years	4 872 214	UNDP/UNCDF/ GVT
5	Empowering Burkina Faso to formulate its first national communication on climatic changes	01/1998	2 years	233 810	UNDP/GEF
6	Project "Support for the process of the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification" (NAP/CD)	01/1998	2 years	1 283 774 480 000 200 000 4 000 34 500 67 740 45 000 112 800 371 500 9 214 60 000	GVT IFAD CILSS SE/CCD Netherlands CIDA IDRC UNDP France Denmark
7	Project "Institutional support for SP/CONAGESE Phase III"	10/1998	1 year	121 675	Denmark GVT
8	Transitional phase of the project "Environmental legislation and institutions in Africa"	03/1999	6 months	36 000	Netherlands
9	*Project being negotiated Project for institutional support to the CONAGESE Permanent Secretariat for private sector capacity-building in the area of environment and environmental documentation centre	09/1998	3 years	679 000	Belgium GVT
10	Drafting of the initial communication of Burkina Faso on the implementation of the Framework Convention on Climatic Change	06/1999	2 years	272 000	Denmark GVT

Intersectoral and pluridisciplinary character: composition and mode of operation

The Permanent Secretariat of CONAGESE is essentially led by eight forestry executives. Expertise also comes from other Ministries such as those of Agriculture (2), Water (2), Livestock-raising (2), Communication (1). Thus the Secretariat can draw on skills in Environmental Law, Environment and Development, Women and Development, Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock-raising, Health Engineering, Water and Sanitation, Diplomacy and International Law, Environmental Impact Studies, Environmental Education.

Status of data and information

The Permanent Secretariat of CONAGESE, through its environmental policy and planning division, guides and coordinates the activities of the National Programme for the Management of Environmental Information (PNGIM).

This programme cooperates with a network of 15 partner institutions which produce and/or use environmental information. Their achievements include the National Nomenclature for the production of land use maps, Topographic Databases, databases of localities in Burkina, inventories of classified forests, etc.

2.2. Institutional, legislative and regulatory framework for desertification control, coherent

The process of analysing the institutional and legislative frameworks for desertification control in Burkina Faso dates back to 1990 with the holding of the workshop on evaluation of the implementation of the National Desertification Control Programme (PNLCD). This workshop helped to clarify the quantitative and qualitative aspect of the concept of environment, to view more clearly the measures aimed at giving producers more secure access to natural resources and finally to highlight the need for the country to set up a programme of institutional and legislative capacity-building in the field of the environment.

These various strategic orientations led to practical measures at two levels:

Institutional level:

These practical measures relate to:

- *The start of a decentralization process;*
- *Spelling out the tasks of the Ministry of the Environment;*
- *Establishment of the National Council for Environmental Management (CONAGESE);*
- *Establishment or installation of specific structures for the implementation of the Convention (National Steering Committee and specialized machinery, machinery for coordination with NGOs and cooperation partners).*

Legislative and regulatory level:

2.3. National Plan of Action integrated in the National Plan for Economic and Social Development

III. The participatory process in support of the process of the implementation of the NAP

IV. Process of consultation with cooperation partners (developed country parties)

V. Measures taken or planned to improve the economic environment, the institutional framework and knowledge of the phenomenon of desertification

VI. Financial resources allocated to support the implementation of the Convention

VII. Review and evaluation of the benchmarks and indicators used to measure the progress made

BENIN

SWAZILAND

1. Policies and strategies

2. Institutional coordination

3. Activities undertaken by the Steering Committee

4. The NAP process

The NAP process started with awareness raising through national workshops, regional workshops, seminars, and meetings. The media was also used in the process, mostly the national radio station which has a wider coverage and is cheaper. Awareness has also concentrated at the local level where meetings and workshops were organized. The celebration of the WDCD has always concentrated on awareness raising and capacity-building of local communities. In addition to the above approaches, special awareness raising programmes were also carried out targeting special groupings like the donor community, academic institutions, the private sector and women and youth. There is also a programme which is being implemented whose objective is to enhance participation of local communities in the NAP process including on decision-making. This is done through catalytic support to their initiated programmes and through projects and training workshops. This programme is supported by both government and NGO officers at the field level.

A time came when a majority of participating organizations had benefited from the awareness-raising programmes. It was then decided that the NAP consultation process should be started. Communities were trained on the process through a series of workshops. They were requested to contribute ideas towards the NAP. This was followed by regional workshops and finally a First National Forum on the UNCCD which was held on 10-12 September 1997. The forum prioritized the programme areas that should be articulated in the NAP.

The NAP is composed of 14 programme areas of which 9 are ongoing programmes. The 5 new programme areas are:

- addressing Chieftaincy disputes;
- awareness-raising and capacity-building;
- promoting active participation by local communities;
- research and technology development.

The different programmes, especially the new ones will be implemented through the preparation of detailed project documents in each programme area and soliciting funds from government, the private sector and external partners for their implementation. A number of proposals have already been prepared and funds are being sourced for their implementation.

The National Action Programme document has been articulated by the steering committee with the help of national and international consultants. It is currently with Cabinet for its approval and adoption as a national policy document. It is hoped that this process will be through before the first half of 1999.

5. Financing of the NAP Process

For the sustainable financing of the NAP and access to funds by local level actors, a National Environment Fund is being established. A draft document is already with the Attorney General Chambers where a Bill is being prepared for submission to Parliament. The Government has already committed a sum of USD 1

6. Financial Requirements

7. Benchmarks and Indicators

NAMIBIA

Overall results: The results from the NAP programme are summarized below.

1 - The identification and analysis of the actual and potential key players related to land degradation (those instrumental for the causes and the solutions of the problem) at different levels is an important element in Namibia's strategic approach. Actors (and their respective organizations) instrumental to both the stated problem (desertification) and its solution (promotion of sustainable and equitable use of natural resources) have been identified at the national level. In particular Namcod's media activities have utilized this information to focus their awareness-raising activities.

2 - Raising awareness about desertification, promotion and coordination efforts to combat the causes of this phenomenon, Namcod newsletters, radio programmes, press releases and other media outputs were instrumental in Inputs 1 and 2. Namcod achieved widespread media coverage and general public awareness of the phenomenon and symptoms of "desertification" in Namibia. Information materials are now available and can be reproduced at relatively low cost. It can be expected that the issue of land degradation will continue to feature (positively or explicitly) in the media.

3 - Development of integrated planning strategies at all levels was introduced on the basis of clearly defined policies and processes. Integrated planning is hard to pursue as a separate objective, since it is essentially a strategy for achieving the goals it helps to put in place. Although a preliminary report was produced, there was no subsequent strategy and/or action plan to be followed during implementation of Phase II.

4 - The objective defined as appropriate interdisciplinary research programme elaborated and implemented was never fully instituted, which resulted in a number of studies being completed. Preliminary research results and applied methodologies, particularly for community-based activities, have been successfully documented and presented at various international conferences.

5 - Training and education was one of Namcod's cross-cutting strategies, formulated as a separate objective: Appropriate training and education provided according to needs and at all levels. In terms of training, almost 100 students, mainly from Namibia, have gained professional experience through Namcod. Several of them have later been engaged as staff or have been otherwise employed in the environmental "field". In addition, capacities of Namcod staff members have been built, not only through tailor-made training sessions, but also through their participation in the Programme.

6 - Natural resource users and managers empowered to plan and implement sustainable management practices in an integrated and decentralized manner was the major objective of Namcod Phase 2 and for which two pilot areas were established. Some areas of community action have been identified but follow-up will require institutional linkages, which still have to be established. The setting up of a community-based monitoring system of biological indicators seems to have gone a long way at one of the two pilot sites and probably has a good chance of becoming sustainable if activities would be continued. Flow of information has been a problem and resulted in the Steering Committee not at all times being well informed of the activities taking place in each of the outreach areas. On the whole, tangible achievements have been limited.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Previous Initiatives

(a) Soil conservation programmes implemented in Dodoma and Singida regions;

(b) The afforestation campaigns and village afforestation programmes;

(c) The arid zone afforestation project;

(d) The establishment of the soil service unit in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives;

INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

implementation of the Convention and network with subregional, regional and international NGOs active in the context of the Convention.

Members of the National Coordinating Bodies are nominated by their respective institutions based on their education level, expertise and experience in the fields of socio-economic and natural resource management. These institutions are those identified by the Department of Environment as being important partners in combatting land degradation. Twenty-three of the thirty-four members (68 per cent) of the coordinating body are government officials and 11 (32 per cent) are from NGOs, the private sector and public institutions. The composition of women is 10 per cent.

The [illegible] and the National Secretariat provide the policy [illegible] in the implementation of the Convention. The Technical Committee [illegible] this policy [illegible] in the direction of what is to be done. The National Secretariat [illegible] necessary to support the National Plan [illegible] implementation is facilitated [illegible] by the Technical Committee. [illegible] point is that [illegible] the day-to-day supervision of implementing activities. Each of [illegible] has its own Terms of Reference which [illegible] the basis for preparing annual plans and timetable for the committee's [illegible]. The NAP does not have a budget of its own but has access to funds allocated to the Division of Environment. The implementation of activities as thirdly funds made available by UNSO/UNDP for the implementation of the NAP process. The work and activities of the committees are supervised and directed by the National Steering Committee, which is basically a policy guiding body.

Activities Undertaken by the National Coordinating Body

Since the time the National Technical Committee and the National Secretariat on the NAP were established, a number of activities have taken place in the NAP process under their guidance and leadership. These activities have included:

- Awareness campaigns and consultations with NGOs and communities at local levels;
- Review of past experiences and ongoing projects and programmes;
- Review of existing legislation and policies;
- Review of mechanisms available for coordination and harmonization of actions to combat desertification at national and local levels;
- Implementation of catalytic support programmes at community level;
- Interpretation of UNCCD documents into the national language;
- The establishment of a National environment Fund - Desertification (NEF-D).

The National Action Programme Process

To initiate the implementation of the NAP process, two workshops were organized. One workshop involved members of the Technical Committee and the second workshop was held for members of the Technical Committee and the Task Force on the establishment of the NEF-D. During these workshops, four teams of

NAP process during the donor monthly meetings. The Government has taken advantage of these meetings and has used them to brief donors on progress achieved and report on the financial requirements of the process.

Several partners have also been approached on a bilateral basis to solicit their involvement in the NAP process especially in preparation for the pre-forum activities. Some of the partners approached have expressed interest in supporting the implementation of the National Action Programme, but their commitment is yet to be seen. Partners approached include: IFAD, CANIDA, SIDA, UNDP, USAID, NORAD, etc.

In preparation for the elaboration of the NAP document, national and international consultants were engaged to review experiences from past and current programmes. Their reports and recommendations together with reports from the consultation process have been used in the preparation of the NAP document. A number of project profiles have been included in the NAP as they were found to be effective and are within the spirit of the Convention.

The NAP process has come up with new parameters for combatting desertification and drought mitigation. These new programmes are:

- The streamlining of cross sectoral policies for the empowerment of local communities to conserve and manage their own resources;

- Education, awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes for all stakeholders;

- Acquisition and dissemination of technology including indigenous knowledge;

- Programmes for curbing population growth;

- Income generating for the implementation of CCD programmes;

- Environmental information system.

It must be noted that the NAP is at the preparatory stage and therefore yet been officially adopted by the Government. The first National Forum on the NAP will be held in July 1999.

Financial and Technical Support to the NAP Process

The Government of Tanzania has contributed to the NAP process as well as other UNCCD related activities through the provision of manpower for the process, provision of office space, facilities and utilities, transport and the exemption from tax to all material and equipment from abroad for the UNCCD activities.

The Tanzanian Government has received financial support through UNDP/UNSO from the Danish Government of US$ 150,000 in 1997 for initiating the NAP process. An additional amount of US$ 30,000 was also provided by Denmark to the Government of Tanzania to catalyze the establishment of a National Environment Fund - Desertification. A forum on the fund took place in May 1998. A sum of US$ 200,000 was provided by UNDP/UNSO to implement a pilot project on "Farmer innovations on soil and water conservation" in the highlands of Tanzania. The Australian Government through UNDP/UNSO has provided US$ 70,000 for catalytic

Financial and Technical Cooperation Requirements